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**TESTIMONY OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
BEFORE THE GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 13, 2009**

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 318, An Act Concerning the Minimum Delivery Cap for Heating Fuel.

This legislation will increase heating oil bills for consumers because it raises the minimum amount of heating fuel that a dealer can impose on its regular customers from 100 gallons to 150 gallons per delivery. For consumers who pay upon the delivery of heating oil, this will increase the amount they need to spend per delivery from \$250 to \$375, based on a cost of \$2.50 per gallon.

During the 2008 special session, the General Assembly reduced the minimum delivery of heating oil from 150 gallons to 100 gallons to assist consumers who were paying approximately \$4 per gallon. Senate Bill 318 reverses this consumer protection legislation. While heating oil costs have recently declined, it is possible that prices will rise quickly in the future. The current law provides residential customers with the ability to reasonably budget limited monthly financial resources for heating their homes.

I urge the committee to maintain the current law and allow for more affordable heating oil bills for consumers.